MINUTES OF MEETING OF COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS
HELD IN WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 20,1922.

The first meeting of the Commission of Fine Arts during the fiscal year 1923 was held in its office at 1729 New York Avenue, Northwest, Washington, D. C., Thursday, July 20, 1922.

The following members were present:

Mr. Moore, Chairman,
Mr. Greenleaf,
Mr. Fraser,
Mr. Bacon,
Mr. Ayres,
Mr. Mowbray,

also Mr. H. P. Caemmerer, Acting Secretary and Executive Officer.

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRECEDING MEETING: The minutes of the meeting held May 30 and 31, 1922, were approved.

2. RESOLUTION IN RE ALLOTMENTS: RESOLVED, That to conform with the requirements of Section 3679 of the Revised Statutes of the United States the funds appropriated for the Commission of Fine Arts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, be made available at any time during the year and that no special allotments by quarters be made.

3. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia, through Mr. A. L. Harris, Municipal Architect, submitted designs for the Langley and Macfarland Junior High Schools of Washington, one to be located on Iowa Avenue, at about Webster Street, and the other at Second and T Streets, N.E. The plan for each of the schools calls for 12 class rooms and 10 shop rooms, capable of accommodating 800 pupils, and each school will cost $300,000. The building

will be classical in design. Mr. Bacon suggested that instead of arched masonry over the windows of the first floor, the simple square window be used. Mr. Harris stated he proposed placing a marquise over the main entrance.

With this suggestion, and a few minor suggestions made to Mr. Harris, the Commission approved the plan.

4. PEDESTAL, STATUE OF EDMUND BURKE: Colonel Sherrill, through Mr. Peaslee, submitted three schemes for the pedestal of the statue of Edmund Burke. Mr. Bacon and Mr. Ayres examined the sketches in detail. The Commission selected scheme No.1 with a revision of detail to reduce the cap and lift the base, and recommended that the pedestal be executed in Stony Creek or Milford Pink Granite, as available, notwithstanding the strike; honed finish, if funds are available. An estimate had been taken on a 10-cut hammer finish.

Colonel Sherrill submitted a location plan for the statue, which proposed placing the statue on the reservation along Massachusetts Avenue, between Eleventh and Twelfth Streets, the statue to be placed at the point facing Eleventh Street, where one may obtain a splendid view of the statue coming up Massachusetts Avenue from the Union Station. The Commission approved placing the statue at this location and recommended that the statue be placed in turf rather than in a paved area, with suitable background planting. The plan of the reservation should be re-designed.

In order to avoid delay in completing the pedestal the Commission approved Colonel Sherrill's suggestion that the inscription and the final drawing or model of the pedestal be approved by a sub-committee of the Commission of Fine Arts. It is proposed to dedicate the statue during a visit of an English delegation in September.

5. ARLINGTON MEMORIAL BRIDGE: Under date of July 5, 1922, Lieut. Col. C. O. Sherrill, Executive and Disbursing Officer of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, submitted the following letter to the Commission, requesting their advice with reference to the erection of the bridge:

> "The Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission contemplates preparing plans for the Arlington Memorial Bridge in the extension of New York Avenue. The Commission also favors a bridge consisting of a series of masonry arches, without draw or other openings, the bridge to be of such height as to allow the passage of river traffic (between 80 and 90 feet clearance above mean low water) at the center of the channel span.
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> "In accordance with the authorization of the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission, it is requested that the views of the Fine Arts Commission in reference to the above matter be furnished this Office, with the suggestions as to the controlling conditions which should govern in the architectural and landscape features of the design of this structure.
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> "It is especially desired to have this bridge of a design that will be entirely harmonious with the Lincoln Memorial.
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> "The views of the Commission are also requested as to the clear width of the roadway that should be provided for in the plans."

Colonel Sherrill stated that the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission favored the use of the New York Avenue site, because in the erection of the bridge either the bridge would have to be very subordinate to the Lincoln Memorial or the memorial would have to be subordinate to the bridge, on account of proximity. It was thought objectionable to build a bridge with a draw, and that it is impossible to build this bridge without a draw at the Lincoln Memorial site. It was felt that it would be impossible to build the bridge at the terminus of the Lincoln Memorial without causing very congested traffic conditions, whereas it has always been felt desirable to keep traffic away from the Lincoln Memorial and keep the memorial as a shrine. At the New York Avenue site, it offers the opportunity to build a bridge which would be a direct approach to the White House and the business center of the city, and as the government has recently purchased land for park purposes along New York Avenue, it would aid in

the development of this area. Also, it was thought a more imposing structure could be built at the New York Avenue site, than at the level of the river. It would serve as an approach to the city and connect with the Lee Highway on the Virginia side of the bridge. Also, the need of a high bridge was felt because of a large amount of commerce carried on by boats going to Georgetown, schooners and oil tankers, and shipment of a great deal of coal. Colonel Sherrill stated that any controlling conditions that should govern should be considered in advance of making a design for the bridge.

The Chairman requested a written statement from each member of the Commission regarding his individual views on the subject, which are to be embodied in a report to the Arlington Memorial Bridge Commission.

6. WEST POTOMAC PARK, PROPOSED WALKS AND ROADS FOR AREAS PARALLEL TO AND EAST OF THE REFLECTING BASIN: Colonel Sherrill presented a plan for walks and an entrance road to the area surrounding the east end of the Reflecting Basin and also a walk plan for each of the double row of English Elms paralleling the Basin.

Mr. Bacon and Mr. Fraser thought that it would be better to eliminate the walks between the Basin and the first single row of English Elms on each side of the Basin, as indicated on the Howard Plan, in order to lessen any visual distraction, as would be occasioned by their use; also that the use of grass and foliage would enhance the Lincoln Memorial composition. The Commission concurred in this matter, and approved the construction of the walk between the rows of elms on each side of the Reflecting Basin, to be 15 feet in width, the same as the width of the Mall walks, instead of 12 feet. The Commission recommended that the steps shown on the Howard Plan on each side of the main approach be eliminated, and that instead they be built in conformity with the

walks mentioned and of the same width, 15 feet.

In considering the Lincoln Memorial composition the Commission thought especial attention should be given to the development of the area at the end of the Reflecting Basin, near 17th Street. The Commission suggested in particular the water spouts mentioned in the Senate Park Commission Report of 1901. Colonel Sherrill stated an adequate supply of water could be had for the spouts as soon as the increased water supply from the new conduit is available. The Commission recommended an eight inch pipe, which could be tapered if necessary to give the desired spray of water.

7. GRANT MEMORIAL PANELS: Mr. Moore reported that Mr. Edward Pearce Casey had written to the Commission suggesting the completion of the panels for the Grant Memorial by Mr. Sherry Fry, sculptor, who had offered to complete them anonymously. Mr. Moore stated that the Commission had also received a letter from Daniel Chester French protesting against having some other sculptor complete the panels, as it would not represent Mr. Shrady's work, and that likewise Mrs. Shrady is opposed to having some other sculptor complete the panels.

Mr. Mowbray stated that the architect, Mr. Casey, had talked with him about the matter and had mentioned that Sherry Fry had volunteered to complete the panels anonymously and according to the plans of Mr. Shrady. Mr. Greenleaf said he had heard the architect had a good deal to do with the design of the Grant Memorial and he would advise finding out how the architect feels about it. Mr. Fraser said that it is dangerous to allow another sculptor to complete the work of a sculptor, especially in the Grant Memorial, where the figures are realistic, and advised leaving off the panels, since Mr. Shrady himself cannot complete them. Mr. Fraser also said that he had heard the models are not sufficiently complete so that another sculptor could complete them and do justice

to Mr. Shrady. Mr. Ayres protested against having panels with an inscription, and said it would improve the pedestal to leave the panels off. Mr. Bacon also recommended leaving off the panels.

The Commission suggested to Colonel Sherrill that he take up the matter with the Grant Memorial Commission to ascertain their views regarding the panels, and that thereupon the matter be again submitted to the Commission.

8. NUNS OF THE BATTLEFIELD MONUMENT, GROUND PLAN: Mr. Connor, sculptor, submitted a revised model of a ground plan for the Monument to the Nuns of the Battlefield. The Commission suggested a slight change in the steps and approved the model. (Exhibit A).

9. INSCRIPTION, STATUE OF ALEXANDER HAMILTON: Mr. Fraser submitted suggested inscriptions for the Statue of Alexander Hamilton, among them the following:

Alexander Hamilton
1757 - 1804
First Secretary of the Treasury.

He smote the rock of National Resources and abundant streams of revenue gushed forth. He touched the dead corpse of the public credit and it sprang upon its feet.

Daniel Webster.

A discussion followed as to whether the length of this inscription would properly fit the pedestal and whether or not it would be best to leave off the sentence referring to the dead corpse. Mr. Moore said the statue will commemorate the first Secretary of the Treasury on the steps of the Treasury Department and that this quotation from Daniel Webster is of great historic interest, which he would like to see recognized. No definite action was taken, but the Commission thought it would be desirable to have a scale drawing of the inscription made.

10. MONUMENT TO THE UNKNOWN AMERICAN: Colonel George H. Penrose, Chief

of the Graves Registration Service appeared before the Commission and presented the following letter regarding the Monument to the Unknown American:

> 1. "I am forwarding herewith a set of brownprints of Mausoleum for the Unknown American Soldier of the World War for your consideration. These plans have been approved by the Secretary of War and the President.
>
> 2. The model, and plans, as prepared by Carrere and Hastings, have been most carefully examined, and it is considered that it is too high and ornate. The height of this monument, so near the Amphitheatre, would, it is believed, detract from the magnificence of this structure.
>
> 3. As both the President and the Secretary of War are anxious to have this work commenced at once, your opinion is therefore desired at as early a date as possible."
>
> H. L. Rogers,
> Quartermaster General.

Mr. Moore stated that he had received a letter from the office of Carrere and Hastings, Architects of the Amphitheatre, stating that Mr. Hasting's desire had been to erect the monument to the Unknown American on a high pedestal in front of the Amphitheatre, so that it could be seen in silhouette from an open sky with a distant view of the Potomac and Washington, and recommended that pending the return of Mr. Hastings, who is now in Europe receiving the Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects, no further action be taken in this matter.

The Commission agreed to hold the matter in abeyance until the return of Mr. Hastings. The Commission did not approve of a Monument to the Unknown American according to the plans submitted by Colonel Penrose. The Commission felt that a solar print of the monument should be prepared by Mr. Hastings, and erected in front of the Amphitheatre, so as to get the scale. (Exhibit B)

11. ERICSSON MEMORIAL MUSEUM: Mr. H. F. J. Porter, Chairman of the Delamater Ericsson Historical Collection, having again submitted a request for the erection of a museum underneath the Ericsson Memorial, the Commission gave the matter

further consideration, but the Commission were unanimous in their opinion that it would be very inadvisable to maintain such a museum there. (Exhibit C). Lack of adequate space in that location, congestion of traffic, the necessity of a custodian, and unfortunate conditions in case of deterioration were reasons set forth by the Commission for disapproving the suggestion.

12. AGRICULTURAL DEPARTMENT WAR MEMORIAL: Mr. Flanagan, sculptor, submitted a preliminary sketch for the proposed War Memorial Tablet for the Agricultural Department, to be made in Knoxville marble, about 10 feet high and six feet wide. The design is in the form of Caryatides; a soldier and a sailor are turning towards the panel containing the names of the dead soldierswith a gesture of salute. Over the arched top is the seal of the Agricultural Department. The estimated cost of the tablet is $10,000. The tablet is designed for a permanent location in the vestibule of the future central section of the Agricultural Department building. In the meantime the tablet will be placed in a temporary location. The Commission approved the design as to form and composition. (Exhibit D).

13. PLAQUE, BUREAU OF MINES: Under date of June 8, 1922, the Commission received a letter (Exhibit E) from the Bureau of Mines asking advice as to securing a suitable plaque or medal. Mr. Moore stated that he had conferred with Mr. F. J. Bailey, Assistant to the Director as to a design, and that the matter had been referred to Mr. Fraser, together with photographs submitted by Mr. Bailey for his recommendation as to a designer. Mr. Fraser stated that he had made inquiries and felt a young sculptor would not be willing to undertake this obligation, and that he would suggest Mr. Weinman for the work.

14. INSPECTION, MODELS OF WASHINGTON: The Commission visited the National Museum to inspect the models of the Senate Park Commission of 1901. They are

on the top floor of the Rotunda. Dr. Holmes, Director of the National Gallery of Art, was present. Mr. Moore said that Mr. Ravenel, Assistant to Dr. Walcott, in charge of the National Museum, had promised him that the models would be removed to the main floor.

The models are in good condition, each of them about 16 feet long by 9 feet wide, in large glass cases. The models, made on the scale of 1000 feet to the inch, were made under the direction of George C. Curtis, Geographical Sculptor, of Boston. One of the models shows the Washington of 1901, and the other Washington of the future, according to the Senate Park Commission Plan.

The Commission had as their guests at Luncheon at the Cosmos Club the Vice President and Mrs. Coolidge. In the afternoon the Commission made an inspection trip to the Mall, Meridian Hill Park, over the proposed Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, and to the Arlington National Cemetery.

July 25, 1922.

Dear Mr. Connor:

I have to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting July 20, 1922, approved your model of the ground plan for the Monument of the Nuns of the Battlefield, with the suggestion that the lower tread of the steps at the side be moved out to the line of the curb.

Sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Jerome Connor, Esq.,

322 North Carolina Avenue, S. E.,

Washington, D. C.

EXHIBIT A.

July 31, 1922.

Dear General Rogers:

On July 20 you sent to the Commission of Fine Arts a set of brown-prints of a proposed mausoleum for the Unknown American Soldier of the World War. You state that the model and plans by Carrere and Hastings have been carefully examined and that it is considered too high and ornate; also that the height of the monument so near the Amphitheatre would detract from the magnificence of that structure.

The Commission of Fine Arts considered the plans at their meeting on July 20th and were unable to approve them. The plans if carried out would result in a structure unfinished and incomplete and would seriously detract from the dignity and beauty of the Amphitheatre. The Commission suggest that the question as to whether the plans of Mr. Hastings would be out of harmony with the Amphitheatre can best be ascertained by having a solar print of the model put in place.

The questions involved in this monument are so serious and so complicated that a quick decision cannot be made. The Commission, therefore, respectfully suggest that the whole matter be held in abeyance until Mr. Hastings' return from Europe and that no work be done until after he has seriously considered the plans. It is quite easy to spoil the whole effect of the Amphitheatre by hasty work. Moreover, the architect of the building, who has spent years in studying the whole composition, is best qualified to judge of any new element that may be added to it.

Sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Major General H. L. Rogers,
The Quartermaster General,
War Department.

Dear General:

Yesterday at Annapolis I saw again the very elaborate mausoleum of John Paul Jones. While that may be considered too ornate, it is not too elegant; and it sets a pace that we of today should not fall below.

C. M.

EXHIBIT B.

July 25, 1922.

Dear Mr. Porter:

I am very sorry to have to tell you that the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting on July 20th were unanimously of the opinion that they could not recommend to Congress the creation of a museum underneath the Ericsson Memorial. The location of the Ericsson Memorial in that place precludes the idea of any sort of museum.

Sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

Mr. H. F. J. Porter, Chairman,
Delamater-Ericsson Commemoration,
29 West 39th Street,
New York City.

EXHIBIT C.

July 25, 1922.

Dear Mr. Flanagan:

I am pleased to inform you that the Commission of Fine Arts at their meeting July 20th approved your preliminary sketch for the Agricultural Department War Memorial as to form and general composition. Mr. Fraser will inform you of suggestions which the Commission made. Among them, the Commission thought it desirable if you would complete the architectural frame and detach the figures. The use of realistic figures as Caryatides was not favored.

The preliminary design should of course have the approval of the War Memorial Committee of the Agricultural Department. The photograph and sketch you sent will be kept in the Office of the Commission of Fine Arts, unless you desire to have them returned to you.

Sincerely, yours,

Charles Moore,

Chairman.

John Flanagan, Esq.,

1931 Broadway,

New York City.

EXHIBIT D.

COPY

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF MINES
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1922.

The Commission of Fine Arts,
Lemon Building,1729 New York Ave.,
Washington, D. C.

Gentlemen: In the conduct of its work looking to the prevention of accidents and improvements of health conditions in the mining industry, the Bureau of Mines holds each year, an International Mine Rescue and First-Aid Contest, at which 75 to 100 selected teams from the different mining states of this country and from Mexico and Canada contest for prizes or trophies in first-aid and mine rescue (breathing apparatus) work. The prizes to winning teams thus far awarded have consisted of silver cups, silver medals, banners, and pennants. In addition, each member of the contesting teams has been given some little memento of the occasion, such as a watch fob, button, bill fold, etc. of a design or marking to indicate his participation in the Meet.

Congress has granted authority, for the first time, to expend in the next fiscal year beginning July 1, an amount not to exceed $1000 for the purchase and bestowal of trophies at such a Meet (note underlined words in attached copy of the wording of the Bureau of Mines appropriation for investigation of mine accidents, etc. 1923). In this way, Government recognition is provided for the humanitarian, life-saving work performed by miners in time of mine accidents and disasters. With one or two exceptions, there seems to be a lack of any good statues or paintings or illustrations typifying the mining industry, of which replicas might be made for award as prizes to the winning team or for presenting as mementos to members of contesting teams at these Meets.

In view of the fact that we already have a number of silver cups for award at the Meet each year, our thought has been that we would like to obtain a spirited, bronze statue or plaque, of real artistic merit, typifying safety in mining for award as chief prize at the next Meet. Such a statue would be, preferably a bronze statue, except that a plaque might have this advantage, as I understand it, that small but faithful replicas could be made for giving to each member of the contesting teams, while the large original plaque would be bestowed as the chief prize at the Meet.

With this general outline of our problem, I am writing to ask whether the Commission of Fine Arts will be willing to consider this problem and advise the Bureau of Mines as to the best procedure to be followed in its solution.

Very truly yours,

E. A. Holbrook, Acting Director.

H.R.10329,Report No.510: (Above referred to)

For investigations as to the causes of Mine explosions, methods of mining, especially in relation to the safety of miners, the appliances best adapted to prevent accidents, the possible improvement of conditions under which mining operations are carried on, the use of explosives and electricity, the prevention of accidents, and other inquiries and technologic investigations pertinent to the mining industry, an amount not to exceed $1,000 for the purchase and bestowal of trophies in connection with mine rescue and first aid contests, and including all equipment, supplies, and expenses of travel and subsistence, $378.